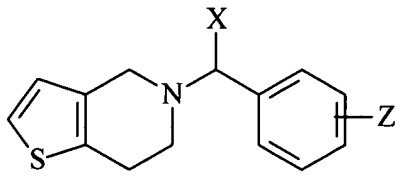
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of tetrahydrothieno[3,2-c]pyridine compound of formula **6**:



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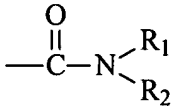
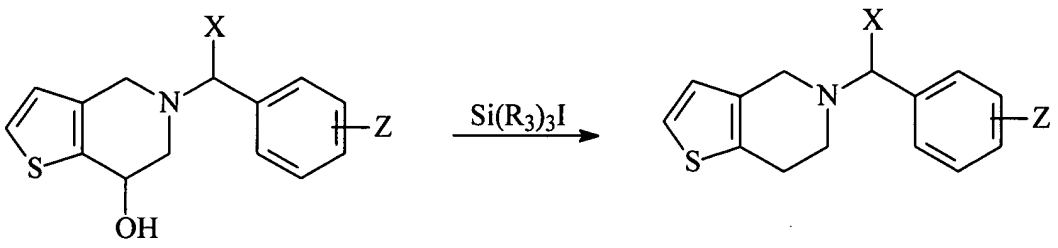
or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, wherein the meaning of X is carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, or carbamoyl of formula



wherein R_1 and R_2 can be individually or simultaneously hydrogen, or alkyl ~~or part of a heterocyclic structure~~; Z can be hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, aryl, aryloxy or alkoxy group, the process comprising conducting a dehydroxylation reaction on the compound of formula **5** in order to obtain a compound of formula **6**, wherein said dehydroxylation reaction is effected by iodosilane represented by the formula $Si(R_3)_3I$, wherein R_3 selected from an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or aromatic group, ~~or combinations of thereof~~.



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2. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein said iodosilane is iodotrimethylsilane (TMSI).

3. (currently amended) The process of Claim 1 or 2 wherein said iodosilane is generated *in situ* in the reaction between chlorosilanes of formula $Si(R_4)_3Cl$ and sodium iodide, wherein R_4 is selected from an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, or aromatic group~~, or combinations of thereof~~.

4. (original) The process of Claim 3 wherein said chlorosilanes is chlorotrimethylsilane.

5. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the compound of formula **6** is racemic or enantiomerically enriched Clopidogrel or pharmaceutical salts thereof.

6. (original) The process of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the compound of formula **5** is in a free base form or in a salt form.

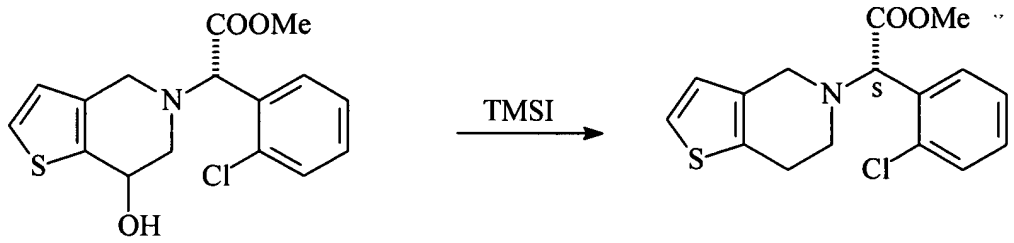
7. (original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the reaction is conducted under a polar aprotic solvent, an aromatic solvent , or mixtures thereof.

8. (original) The process of Claim 7 wherein the polar aprotic solvent is selected from acetonitrile, CH_2Cl_2, *N, N'*-dimethylformamide and combinations thereof.

9. (currently amended) The process of Claim 7 wherein the aromatic solvent is ~~selected from~~ toluene ~~and equivalent thereof~~.

10. (previously amended) A process for the preparation of compound of formula **1** or its pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, comprising conducting a

dehydroxylation reaction on the compound of formula 9 or its salts thereof, wherein said dehydroxylation reaction is effected by iodotrimethylsilane (TMSI)



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11. (original) The process of Claim 10 wherein the reaction is conducted under a polar aprotic solvent, an aromatic solvent , or mixtures thereof.

12. (original) The process of Claim 11 wherein the polar aprotic solvent is selected from acetonitrile, CH_2Cl_2, *N, N'*-dimethylformamide and combinations thereof.

13. (currently amended) The process of Claim 11 wherein the aromatic solvent is ~~selected from~~ toluene ~~and equivalent thereof~~.